

reference represents Applicants' own work, which removes the reference as 102(a) prior art.

The English translation of JP '085 lists the inventors as Yosuke Aoki, Hideaki Suzuki, Tatsuyoshi Takahashi and Hisashi Katsuragi. The English translation has incorrectly translated the third inventor's given name. The third inventor's given name is Kiyoshi. Please compare the Japanese characters, 高橋樹由, which represent Takahashi, Kiyoshi, to the Japanese characters on JP '085. Evidence of the correct translation is provided in PCT/JP99/04401 item (75) submitted herewith.

The listed inventors on cited reference JP '085 correspond to the listed inventors on the Oath and Declaration of the instant application. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn as the cited reference is the work of the inventors.

In view of the fact that the rejection has been overcome, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-5 be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

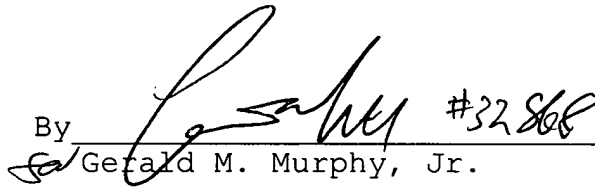
Appl. No. 09/330,192

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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